

**James DeLano, Riverview Lodge RCH**  
**Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes**

*Re: in opposition to*

**H.B. No. 6887 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF RESIDENTS IN HEALTH CARE  
INSTITUTIONS.**

Public Health Committee, March 18, 2015

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is James DeLano, I am owner/administrator of Riverview Lodge Residential Care Home in Deep River, CT and a member of the CARCH (Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes). I am here today to testify against House Bill 6887- AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF RESIDENTS IN HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS.

The Connecticut Association of Residential Care Home includes the majority of the over one-hundred homes in the state. We serve about 3,000 residents, about sixty percent of which have behavioral health or mental health diagnoses and the remaining percentage being elderly. Residential care homes are not medical facilities nor do we provide medical care. Our home is run by me as Administrator, an assistant and lay-people, who are trained by us to oversee our residents to provide meals, assist with housekeeping, laundry, getting residents to medical appointments, administering medications, etc. We provide a comfortable and safe home and help with their day to day living needs. We truly feel that staff is stretched to their limit.

House Bill 6887 would require residential care homes to take additional steps in writing a resident discharge plan and perform tasks that we are not equipped to do or have ever done. Residential care homes are made up of small staffs and have limited funding. We have compassionate and caring staff members who have limited educational backgrounds, limited training and often English is their second language. We simply are not qualified to perform the tasks described in the proposed language.

Residential care homes do not offer medical diagnoses, analyze resident emotional states, or make determinations as to what would be an appropriate placement. This proposal would require us to do so for all residents who leave our facility. The state approved Medication Administration Training (MAT) course that RCH's have been required to implement, specifically addresses the fact that we are not trained or qualified to assess our residents. We are not social workers, case managers, clinicians or medical providers. Our experience since the MAT implementation is several homes losing terrific staff people who were unable to pass the MAT course. We have concerns that should the proposed language go through we may see the same thing happening to staff and RCH's as well.

The proposed language would be inappropriate, burdensome and costly. Please, I urge you to not act on House Bill 6887.